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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

COR-1165
Copy 5 of 5.
5 June 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)
THROUGH : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division
SUBJECT : CORONA Status

1. Schedule. The first qualification test C''' camera and first operational unit were 3 weeks late in delivery from ITEK. Despite the usual debugging, the first operational unit is checking out well at LMSD. A revised flight schedule based on all foreseeable limiting factors (manpower, pad turn around, equipment check out, recovery force deployment, etc.) has been given to Dr. Charyk for approval. This schedule is:

<u>Agena</u>	<u>Payload</u>	<u>Launch Date</u>	<u>Pad</u>
1108	A-8	6 June 1961	4
1107	C'-16	13 June 1961	1
1109	C'-20	28 June 1961	5
1110	A-7	11 July 1961	4
1111	C'''-53	18 July 1961	1
1112	C'''-54	2 August 1961	5
1113	C'''-55	16 August 1961	4
1114	C'''-56	22 August 1961	1
1115	C'''-57	6 Sept. 1961	5
1116	A-6	20 Sept. 1961	4
1117	A-9	27 Sept. 1961	1

This schedule is a demanding one and allows minimum time for unforeseen troubles. It presumes ITEK will recover their delivery schedule and solution of Agena stability difficulties. This will complete the approved ARGON program but leave one C''' camera unfired. Early September is the absolute last time for effective use of the C''' because of sun angle.

2. MURAL. The MURAL engineering flight is scheduled for January 1962. Diversion of the last operational C''' and use of one of the two qualification test C''' items for this experiment is being explored. If the launch of Agena 1115 slips beyond the first week of September, as it well may, use of both last and second last operational C''' units rather than the qualification test item for the engineering shot would be sensible. Five operational MURAL flights are scheduled

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for summer 1962. By the end of June the realizability of this schedule should be apparent. If only four C''' shots are achievable before Labor Day, this leaves a 1961 inventory as follows:

3 Thor-Agenas
4 C' cameras
2 C''' qualification test cameras

Depending upon C''' qualification camera condition after test, they may be refurbishable as one or two individual C''' units or one MURAL unit. Depending upon success of MURAL engineering shot, we could select as follows:

3 C' shots, autumn '61 - spring '62
or
2 C' shots, autumn '61 - spring '62
1 C''' shot, summer '62
or
1 C' shot, spring '62
2 C''' shots, summer '62
or
1 MURAL shot, summer '62
2 C' shots, autumn '61 - spring '62

3. Security. According to your and Dr. Charyk's direction, MURAL has been restricted within government at least to a lesser number of people than are aware of CORONA through C''' phase. Dr. Harold Brown, who succeeded York, is the only person officially knowledgeable of MURAL in DOD/R&E. I suspect, but cannot prove, that at least Dailey and Smith, and probably others, including Fubini, are aware of at least a proposed continuance into 1962.

A difficult situation arose this week over a request that Art Smith be allowed to visit ITEK on 2 June to discuss the stereoscopic program. This was settled with a shred of residual amicability with Brown, Dailey and Smith arrayed against [] and ourselves on the basis that Smith could discuss the program only through the C''' development.

Brown informed [] that he intended to seek additional clearances for several of his people as insurance against further Air Force "mistakes." Since with the ending of ARGON this year and the recent McNamara space directive to the Air Force, Brown's staff have no management role and no remaining need to know on this program. I am sure that Brown's staff is reporting to him in very uncomplimentary terms on Air Force management of CORONA in view of the above. I would

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be much surprised if our own picture is being painted any better. Also, since Brown is witting of "O" and at least one of his staff was witting of the "O" predecessor program, an adventure by them in this direction may be expected.

25X1A

[] will ask Dr. Charyk to resolve the CORONA matter with Brown. A word from you to Charyk to safeguard "O" may be in order.

EUGENE P. KIEFER
SA/TA/DPD-DD/P

EPK/hhk

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